

## In the Specification

Please amend the sentence beginning at page 6, line 26 as follows:

The nodes are grouped into arbitrary sized clusters such that every node is included in at least one cluster and each link is ~~completed~~ completely contained in at least one cluster.

Please amend the sentence at page 16, lines 11-12 as follows:

We also require that every link in the Markov network is ~~completed~~ completely included in at least one cluster.

Please amend the sentence at page 45, lines 12-14 as follows:

An arrow dragging a line symbolizes a double-indexed message, and a simple line ~~connected~~ connecting two nodes symbolizes a compatibility matrix.

Please amend the sentence at page 48, lines 3-5 as follows:

If the super-node Markov network has no loops, one can apply standard belief-propagation to determine exactly the desired marginal probabilities, even if the original Markov network had some loops.

Please amend the sentence at page 48, lines 16-17 as follows:

In our alternative embodiment of our invention, we make a modification to the loopy super-node method which guarantees that ~~[[when]]~~ it converges.

Please amend the sentence at page 58, lines 15-18 as follows:

Typically, the sender of a message transmits “blocks” of bits (binary digits), where each block contains the “data bits” of the original message, plus some additional “check bits” which help to decode the message if it ~~[[is]]~~ arrives at a receiver in a corrupted form.